

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEFENCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:150  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007  
ATTRITION OF PILOTS FROM ARMED FORCES  
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the pilots employed with forces are leaving their jobs to join private airlines;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the forces are facing acute shortage of pilots as a result thereof;
- (d) if so, the effective steps being taken by the Government to deal with the situation; and
- (e) the number of pilots joining private airlines after leaving the forces during the last three years?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. The pilots are allowed to leave the forces either on superannuation or on premature retirement/resignation. As per extant instructions, premature retirement and resignations are not allowed on the ground of joining private airlines. Premature exits from the forces are regulated keeping in view the operational considerations.

(d) The improvement in job profile of the pilots is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.

(e) As per extant guidelines, Defence Service Officers of the rank of Colonel or equivalent and above are required to obtain prior permission of the Government for any commercial employment, beyond which the Government is not involved. As such, the data on the number of pilots joining private airlines after leaving the forces is not maintained by the Government.